

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SSO-00 AF-10 DRC-01 /157 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3738

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 13970

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: KUZNETSOV COMMENTS ON MIDDLE EAST

1. AT NOV 7 RECEPTION HELD IN KREMLIN, I SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH FIRST DEPUTY FONMIN KUZNETSOV ABOUT HIS VISIT TO CAIRO AND DAMASCUS. HE SAID HE RECEIVED IMPRESSION THAT BOTH EGYPTIANS AND SYRIANS ARE PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT FULLY SC 338 AND TO WORK TOWARD PEACE SETTLEMENT. ARABS, HOWEVER, WERE "FURIOUS" REGARDING GAINS MADE BY ISRAEL FOLLOWING OCT 22 CEASEFIRE. KUZNETSOV COMMENTED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT ISRAEL WITHDRAW TO OCT 22 CEASE-FIRE LINE, THUS REDUCING POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER OUTBREAK OF HOSTILITIES.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, KUZNETSOV REPLIED THAT ARABS WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF POW EXCHANGES AND THEY WERE NOW CONSULTING AMONG THEMSELVES REGARDING NEGOTIATIONS CALLED FOR UNDER PARA 3 OF SC 338.

3. KUZNETSOV VOLUNTEERED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR U.S. AND USSR TO COOPERATE IN FINDING SOLUTION TO ME PROBLEMS. (DURING SAME RECEPTION, MFA SECRETARY GENERAL CHERNYAKOV TOOK SIMILAR LINE, COMMENTING THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT NEGOTIATIONS LOOKING TOWARD ME SETTLEMENT BE CONDUCTED UNDER "APPROPRIATE AUSPICES," MEANING U.S. AND USSR.)

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4.. AT AN APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY, KUZNETSOV, WHO LOOKED WELL AND HEALTHY DESPITE HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM DAMASCUS, WALKED BEHIND LONG, HUGE BANQUET TABLE SETTING OFF POLITBURO MEMBERS FROM GUESTS TO GREET EACH POLITBURO MEMBER INDIVIDUALLY. HE IS APPARENTLY WELL KNOWN TO ALL SINCE EACH GREETED HIM WARMLY. HE SUBSEQUENTLY APPEARED TO GIVE AN ON-THE-SPOT DEBRIEFING TO A SMALL GROUP GATHERED AROUND HIM INCLUDING GROMYKO, KIRILENKO, ANDROPOV, KULAKOV AND CANDIDATE MEMBER USTINOV. KUZNETSOV ALSO SPOKE BRIEFLY TO BREZHNEV UNTIL LATTER WAS INTERRUPTED BY ANOTHER GROUP OF WELL-WISHERS.
DUBS

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